

Marital Struggles; or, How Two Households Became One.

Mrs. Benson was fat, fair, and forty-four, when her husband, a soap boiler in very good circumstances, was called from his life task of contributing to the general purification of mankind. Mrs. Benson took refuge from her grief in a pretty cottage, situated on the principal street in G—.

At first she was inconsolable; and she used to say, with a solemn emphasis, which carried conviction to the hearts of her hearers, that nothing but the thoughts of her daughter Florence would have prevented her from terminating her existence by the intervention of poison.

Mrs. Benson was in no small degree indebted to her daughter—since in less than three months she threw aside her mourning, and became as lively as ever.

Touching Florence, she had now reached the mature age of nineteen, and began to think herself marriageable. She was quite pretty and tolerable well accomplished; so that her wishes in that respect were very likely to be fulfilled.

Just over the way lived Squire Markham, the village lawyer, just verging upon fifty, with his son Charles, who was about half his age. Being a young man of agreeable exterior, the latter was quite a favorite with the young ladies in the neighborhood, and considered in common parlance quite a "catch."

As yet, however, his affections had never been seriously engaged. He might be carried out with perfect success, it was resolved to seem indifferent to each other until the day fixed, in order to ward off any suspicion which might otherwise be roused.

So well were these arrangements carried out, that Mrs. Benson had no suspicion of what was going on.

Not so with Squire Markham. He had obtained a copy of the affair in some manner, and he not only discovered the fact of the elopement, but even the very day on which it was to occur.

"Sly dog," thought he, "I thought he to himself, as he sat down before the fire in his dressing gown and smoking cap, leisurely puffing away at a choice Havana—

"But I don't," he thought, "he only takes after me. Still, one him something for keeping it so secretly from me. It would be a good joke, if it were a little younger, to ent him out, and marry her in spite of him."

Squire Markham, who was one of those jovial widowers who take life as it comes, mused more and more on this idea, stuck at by chance, as it were, till he really began to think it worth considering.

"After all," he thought, "I am not so old either, or at least the ladies say so—and they ought to be good judges in such matters. I have been a bachelor a good while, and ought to have found out before this how much more comfortable it would be to have a pretty wife to welcome me home, and do the honors of my table, and to help me keep that rascal Charles in order. Egad! I've half a mind to do it!"

Squire Markham took two more whiffs, and exclaimed: "I row I'll do it!"

What this mysterious "it" was, we will leave the readers to infer from his very next movement. Ringing the bell, he inquired of the servant:

"Is Charles at home?"

"No sir," was the reply; "he went out this morning, and will be gone all day."

"Humph! that'll do. So much the better for my purposes," thought he, when alone.

"Now I have the ground level to myself. Let me see; the rascal intends to run away next Thursday evening, and to-day is Monday. Nothing like striking while the iron is hot. I'll write to her in his name, telling her that I have altered my mind, and will go just at dark to-morrow night. She won't suspect anything until the knot is tied, and then what a laugh we shall have!"

Squire Markham did not consider that it might make a little difference with the bride expectant. He considered it a capital joke on his son, but looked no further. He accordingly drew his writing materials towards him, and indited the following epistle:

"Dearest Florence—I find the day fixed for our elopement on some accounts objectionable, and would like, with your permission, to substitute to-morrow evening. If I hear nothing from you, I shall infer that you are not so much interested in the matter as I have a carriage in readiness under the oak tree at half past eight o'clock. You can walk there without attracting suspicion, and as there will be no moon, we shall be able to carry out our plans without fear of discovery. I am happy to say that the Governor doesn't suspect in the least that a daughter-in-law is in store for him—Won't he be ashamed of CHARLEY?"

"Your devoted father."

"Egad," said Squire Markham, laughing heartily, "that isn't bad, especially about humbugging me—Charley couldn't have done any better himself!"

So saying he sealed it up and sent it over by a private Irish boy in his employment, having first marked it "private" in the corner.

"Be careful Mike, to give it to Miss Benson, and don't let any one else see it," was the parting injunction.

Mrs. Benson was sitting in her quiet parlor, casting her eyes over a late number of the Atlantic Monthly. Florence being absent on a shopping excursion, she was left alone. The ringing of the bell brought her to the door. With surprise she saw that the person who rang the bell was Mike, Squire Markham's boy, of whom she had never before heard.

"Please make me sit, holding out the envelope, and a letter from Miss Benson, an it's very particular that nobody else should see it."

The air of mystery conveyed in this characteristic address aroused Mrs. Benson's curiosity, especially when she observed that it was addressed to her daughter, and not to herself, as she supposed. She returned the parlor—not to read the Magazine; that had lost its attractions.

"What in the world can it be?" she thought, "that they should be so secret about it? Can Florence be carrying on a clandestine correspondence? It may be something that I ought to know."

Stimulated by her feminine curiosity, Mrs. Benson quickly unlocked the door, and opened the letter. It was from her father, and she read it with a growing interest.

"Here's pretty doing!" she exclaimed, as soon as she could recover breath. "So Florence was going to run away and get married to that Charles Markham, without so much as hinting a word to me!"

She leaned her head upon her hand, and began to consider. She was not used to think of her own marriage with the late Mr. Benson, and the marriage of her wedded life, and she could not help heaving a sigh at the recollection.

"Am I always to remain thus solitary?" she thought. "I've half a mind to show the letter to Florence, but to run away with Charles to-morrow night on my own account, I don't think I might."

"What's in the wind?" she thought, Charles to himself. "It can't be the Governor's getting crazy? Something was the matter, beyond a doubt. But what it really was, he had not the faintest conjecture."

At the hour specified, the Squire had his carriage drawn up at the appointed rendezvous. He began to peer anxiously in the dark for Florence. At length a female form, well muffled, and with a white veil, made her appearance. "Thanking her in a very low whisper, lest it might be overheard, he was the wrong person, he helped her into the carriage, and drove off.

During part of the journey, nothing was said. Both parties were desirous of concealing their identity. At length Squire Markham, considering that after all he could not marry the lady without her consent, and that the discovery must be made before marriage, decided to reveal himself, and then urge his own suit as well as he might.

"My dear Miss Florence," he continued, in his natural voice, "I am very glad to see you, and I am very glad to see you."

"And I," said the lady, "I thought it was Charles."

"And I," said the lady, "I thought it was Charles."

"Was it you, sir, who was arranging to elope with my daughter?"

"No, but I conclude it was you, ma'am, who was meaning to elope with my son."

Indeed, Squire Markham was wrong; the affair coming incidentally to my knowledge, I concluded to

SAVING SANSAPARILLA.

Health and long life may be attained by keeping the blood pure, and the liver, stomach, and bowels free from all morbid secretions, and deleterious accumulations. In the worst cases of Scrofula and other diseases, cutaneous, or eruptive, arising from a vitiated, or inflamed condition of the blood, the wonderfully purifying qualities of this celebrated extract, and its prompt action upon the vital fluid have earned for it its high reputation. Numerous certificates from persons of the highest respectability are the best evidence of its great value in the cure of diseases for which it is recommended.

Prepared and sold by A. B. & D. SANDS, Druggists, 100 Fulton Street, New York.

Sold by Druggists generally. (September 10, 1888—211)

THE "ELIXIR."

Prepared by Dr. James Williams for the cure of Dyspepsia, and all diseases of the stomach, liver, and bowels. It is a powerful and reliable remedy, and has been used with the most successful results in Philadelphia, and in the present state of the market we cannot give a correct quotation. A few lots of State brands have changed hands during the past three or four days, but neither buyers nor sellers seem disposed to make the prices public. We quote nominally as follows:—

Cross to \$25 to \$25, fine \$25 to \$25, superfine \$25 to \$25, and family \$7 to \$7 per bbl.—though we would remark that it appears inactive, even at lowest figures.

Guaymas.—In consequence of an important change of notice since our last review. The market is very well supplied at present, and there is only a limited demand from dealers.—The receipts for the week comprise only 4,850 bushels, of which 3,450 came to a dealer and has gone into store, and the balance sold at 75 cents per bushel—this was a prime article of white, and was taken for milling purposes. We quote at 70 to 75 cents, as in quality.—None have been received lately, and the supply on market has become rather light; we note, however, only a retail demand.

Guaymas.—The supply of wheat is small, the market is quiet for the demand at present existing. No sales and quotations in place are mere nominal. Rice.—For clear there is only a light demand from the trade, and we note a fair stock in first hands. We continue former rate—34 cents per lb.—Wheat.—No transactions have been reported since our last. Several parcels on market, but no buyers in consequence of the difficulty in shipping.

Hay.—The market for some time past has ruled exceedingly dull for all descriptions, and we note a heavy stock in store. Receipts for the week 298 bales Northern, and 430 do. Eastern—the former of which sold on Wednesday at 10 cents per 100 lbs., 50 days; and the latter is unsold. The lot of 47 bales inferior Eastern reported in our last as received, was sold at 60 cents, cash.

Lime.—We have no change to notice in this article. No receipts, but there is a full stock of former arrivals remaining in dealers' hands. We quote at 95c. a \$1 per cask.

Molasses.—There has been very little demand since our last, and no sales except in the retail way. Cuba is in fair stock, and we quote from store and wharf at 30 cents for single hhls., and 28 cents per gallon in lots; and 32 to 35 cents in hhls., as in quality.

Potatoes.—Sweet arrive quite freely for the season of the year, and sell at 10 cents to \$1 per bushel. The supply of Irish is light, and we note only a limited enquiry. See table for quotations.

Provisions.—For N. C. cured Bacon the market continues to rule quiet. Receipts for two or three weeks have been moderate, and there is a fair supply at present in first hands. There is scarcely any demand for retailing purposes, and the sales have been mainly of small lots to consumers at 14 cents for hog round; some parcels are held higher. We refer to our table for prices, which will be found correct as regards the wholesale quotations. The supply of Western has become light, in consequence of the meagre receipts for a few weeks past, and the market rules firm at previous rates. We quote sales from store in small lots at 9 cents for shoulders, and 10 to 11 cents per lb. for sides.

Lard.—One or two small lots of N. C. make brought in during the week, but we hear of no sales except in the retail way. Western is in light supply, though we note a very light demand as existing. We quote small sales from store at 12 to 12 cents in hhls., and 12 cents per lb., in kegs.

Pork.—For Northern there has been but little demand throughout the past week, and there is a large stock on market; no change, however, in prices, and our quotations in table represent actual sales. The supply of Western has become light, in consequence of the meagre receipts for a few weeks past, and the market rules firm at previous rates. We quote sales from store in small lots at 9 cents for shoulders, and 10 to 11 cents per lb. for sides.

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Wilmington Wholesale Prices Current.

It should be understood that our quotations generally represent the wholesale price. In filling small orders, higher rates have to be paid.

BREWER'S, 21 25	25	25
Wheat, 21 25	25	25
Barley, 21 25	25	25
Oats, 21 25	25	25
Rye, 21 25	25	25
Speltz, 21 25	25	25
Wheat, 21 25	25	25
Barley, 21 25	25	25
Oats, 21 25	25	25
Rye, 21 25	25	25
Speltz, 21 25	25	25
Wheat, 21 25	25	25
Barley, 21 25	25	25
Oats, 21 25	25	25
Rye, 21 25	25	25
Speltz, 21 25	25	25
Wheat, 21 25	25	25
Barley, 21 25	25	25
Oats, 21 25	25	25
Rye, 21 25	25	25
Speltz, 21 25	25	25
Wheat, 21 25	25	25
Barley, 21 25	25	25
Oats, 21 25	25	25
Rye, 21 25	25	25
Speltz, 21 25	25	25
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Barley, 21 25	25	25
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Wheat, 21 25	25	25
Barley, 21 25	25	25
Oats, 21 25	25	25
Rye, 21 25	25	25
Speltz, 21 25	25	25
Wheat, 21 25	25	25